

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4479

USMISSHON USUN IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO CZ

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICOIMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 0758

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PFOR BH GT UK

SUBJECT: MEXICAN COMPROMISE RESOLUTION AS SEEN FROM BELIZE

REF: MEXICO 9860

1. AMONG OTHER CONSIDERATIONS THAT MIGHT BE WEIGHED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN DECIDING (A) WHETHER TO LOBBY FOR AND (B) WHETHER TO VOTE FOR MEXICAN COMPROMISE RESOLUTION (REFTEL) IS THE EFFECT THESE DECISIONS WILL HAVE IN BELIZE.

2. THIS THOUGHT IS PUT FORWARD NOT AS AN OVERRIDING ARGUMENT AGAINST AN AFFIRMATIVE DECISION ON EITHER OF THE ABOVE BUT MERELY TO POINT OUT WHAT WE WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR THEM HERE IF THAT THE RESOLUTION FAVORED BY BELIZE AND NON-ALIGNED ALLIES FAILS IN CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A US SUPPORTED COMPROMISE (SUCH AS THE PROPOSED MEXICAN RESOLUTION) COULD BE BLAMED FOR SUCH FAILURE, PRICE AND HIS COHORTS WOULD NOT ONLY BE PROFOUNDLY AND PERMANENTLY EMBITTERED TOWARD THE U.S. THEY WOULD ALSO HAVE TO FACE THE OPPOSITION TAUNT THAT WITH OUR HELP THEY HAD MANAGED TO SNATCH DEFEAT FROM
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THE JAWS OF VICTORY. THEY WILL VIEW THE MEXICAN COMPROMISE

AS WORSE THAN NO RESOLUTION AT ALL.

3. PERHAPS THIS IS A PRICE WE SHOULD BE WILLING TO PAY IF SUCH A RESOLUTION WOULD IN FACT COOL THE UK-GUATEMALAN CRISIS. OUR REATIONS WITH BELIZE SHOULD BE EXPENDABLE IN THE INTEREST OF AVERTING AN ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND THE U.K. BUT I SHOULD THINK WE WOULD WANT TO BE REASONABLY SURE THE COMPROMISE RESOLUTION CAN BE PASSED AND WILL HAVE THE DESIRED RESULT BEFORE WE BECOME IDENTIFIED WITH IT. THE EFFECT OF OUR BACKING IT WHETHER IT PROSPERS OR NOT WILL BE TO IDENTIFY US IN THE EYES OF BELIZE AS SWORN ALLIES OF GUATEMALA.

4. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FROM HERE, THERE IS SOME REASON TO DOUBT THE EXISTENCE OF AN URGENT POPULAR DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE BY A MAJORITY OF BELIZEANS. BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT BELIZEANS ARE QUITE UNITED IN THEIR ANTIPATHY TOWARD GUATEMALA. FOR THIS REASON THE OPPOSITION AND NEARLY ALL BELIZEANS WHO ARE AT ALL POLITICALLY AWARE SUPPORT PRICE'S EFFORT TO GET A MEANINGFUL UN RESOLUTION, ALTHOUGH THEY DIFFER WIDELY AS TO WHEN IT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. OUR CONNIVANCE WITH MEXICO TO THWART THIS EFFORT WOULD BE READ AS PROOF THAT WE WERE HAND IN GLOVE WITH GUATEMALA, WHICH MANY BELIZEANS SUSPECT IN ANY CASE.

5. REACTION TO THE MEXICAN GAMBIT FROM AMONG THE ENTHUSIASTIC NON-ALIGNED BACKERS OF THE RESOLUTION ALREADY TABLED IS A MATTER OUTSIDE MY COMPETENCE, BUT I ASSUME WILL BE FACTORED IN TO THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION.

6. WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AN IRON PICKET FENCE AROUND THE CONSULATE GENERAL WILL BE COMPLETED AND OUR CROWD-QUELLING CHEMICAL SUPPLIES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN REPLENISHED. I AM PREPARED TO ACCEPT A FEW BRICKS THROUGH THE WINDOWS FOR A WORTHY CAUSE, AND I WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THE BELIZEANS' IMMEDIATE REACTION WOULD BE LIKELY TO GO BEYOND THIS. THE MODEST U.S. COMMERCIAL INTEREST HERE MIGHT SUSTAIN MORE LASTING DAMAGE IN THE FORM OF OFFICIAL OPPROBRIUM. THIS, TOO, MAY BE ACCEPTABLE IF THE ANTICIPATED BENEFITS SO WARRANT. HOWEVER, I SUBMIT THAT ALL THESE CONSIDERATIONS
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SHOULD BE EVALUATED IN THE COURSE OF REACHING A DECISION.
GAWF

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